



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

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SACATON MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER

PHOENIX – Lawrence Jackson, 33, of Sacaton, Ariz., was sentenced here on March 22, 2005 by U.S. District Judge David Campbell to life in prison plus seven consecutive years for First Degree Murder and Conspiracy.

Jackson was found guilty by a federal jury on November 4, 2004. The facts presented at trial showed that the defendant and at least three other co-conspirators brutally beat and pistol whipped Victor Villareal, also of Sacaton, Ariz. After the victim was severely beaten and could hardly see or move, the conspirators ordered him to clean up his own blood from the walls and floors of the home. At the end of a nearly three hour beating, the conspirators ordered the victim into a bathtub where he was again pistol whipped until he was unconscious. The conspirators then stabbed the victim, primarily in the neck and back, in excess of 100 times. Once the victim was dead, the conspirators wrapped the victim's body in sheets and garbage bags and put him into a large trash dumpster. The conspirators then buried the victim in a shallow grave on the Gila River Indian Reservation. The victim's body was not found until about two months later.

The defendant was convicted at trial of Conspiracy to Commit Murder, Conspiracy to Commit Aggravated Assault, Conspiracy to Commit Kidnapping, First Degree Murder, First Degree/Felony Murder, Aggravated Assault and several counts of Use of a Firearm in a Crime of Violence.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI and the Gila River Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Sharon K. Sexton, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-358-PHX-DGC
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